

***“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”***

**MINUTES**

City of San Diego  
Park and Recreation Board

April 26, 2007

**Meeting Held at:**

Mountain View Community Center  
641 South Boundary Street  
San Diego, CA 92113

**Mailing Address is:**

City of San Diego  
Office of Park and Recreation Director  
202 C Street, MS 37C  
San Diego, California 92101

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members Present**

Ginny Barnes, Acting Chair  
Norman Greene  
Dan Mazzella  
Bob Otilie  
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds  
Wilbur Smith

**Members Absent**

Robert L. Robinson  
Darlene Gould Davies

**City Staff Present**

Stacey LoMedico  
Kim Davies  
Andy Field  
Patty Jencks  
Carol Wood  
Jo-Ann Novak

**CALL TO ORDER** - Acting Chair Ms. Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:20 P.M.

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE** - None

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

John H. Borja – Criticism of recent reductions in budget for maintenance, and trend for outsourcing.

Damian Tryon – Expressed concerns regarding service levels at parks and recreation centers.

Dorothy Leonard – Discussed proposal elimination of four Park Rangers, impact on the court case of the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), Ground Maintenance Worker position at Kumeyaay Campground, and Water Department Reservoir Recreation Program.

Catherine Lester – Read letter from Sandy Lippe Chairperson of Standley Park Recreation Council regarding financial burdens and reduction of staff. Ms. Lester also expressed concerns regarding loss of Ground Maintenance Worker and Center Director, and impact on special events.

Glenda Gates – Welcomed Park and Recreation Board Members to Mountain View Community Center and thanked David Monroe, Acting Deputy Director of Open Space for his assistance in the construction of Mountain View Community Center.

Robert L. Haynes Sr. – Expressed concerns regarding older parks that have limited new amenities.

Item 101. Fiscal Year 2008 Budget

Ms. Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Director presented the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget.

The following are questions, comments and concerns from the Park and Recreation Board Members:

Mr. Mazzella concerned about the inequities in viewing Capital Improvement Projects (reference e-mail from Mr. Robert Robinson). Ms. LoMedico stated there are dedicated funds for capital projects associated with planned communities. These funds have restrictions on how the City can use them, as they are dedicated to these new planned communities. Because of the need to fund projects in the communities that do not have these dedicated funds, we do our best to supplement the deficiency via the use of grant funds. The Mayor's Press Release under deferred maintenance shows several large park projects being proposed for Fiscal Year 2008.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds requested the Mayor minimize the deferred maintenance inequity in the system.

Mr. Smith requested information regarding enhancement of the park fees for urbanized communities. Ms. LoMedico will return with more information in May.

Mr. Greene commented on services being cut. Ms. LoMedico stated that in Fiscal Year 2007 Park and Recreation Department received additional funding for Recreation Leaders. However, there is a severe shortage of Recreation Leaders due to difficulty in recruiting and filling positions. Park and Recreation Board recommends that brochures be posted in Recreation Centers and to do more of an outreach to university campuses; athletic/recreation departments; and junior colleges.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds suggested that a volunteer marketing person be recruited to assist.

Mr. Otilie commented on the lack of attendees at the meeting and commended the Mayor's Office on the budget.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds requested a status on all Business Processing Re-Engineerings. Ms. LoMedico will provide this information prior to or at the May meeting.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds expressed concern regarding outsourcing and how it does not work when it is driven by profit.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds would like to know what mechanism would be used in transferring Park Planning and Development to City Planning and Community Investment and Engineering and Capital Projects. Park and Recreation Department will adhere to City Council Policy 600-33 and Park Board Policy. Ms. LoMedico responded that a document like an "MOU" or Memorandum of Understanding will outline the task and the functions to these departments.

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds would like it conveyed to the Mayor that, in order to restore recreation center hours, the City would need to provide a million dollars a year. A \$20 million endowment fund could be set up to increase youth programs and to keep children out of gangs.

Area Committee Community Parks I will make inquiries at their May meeting to see what cuts in activities have taken place in the Recreation Centers. Mr. Mazzella will contact Mr. Robertson and request that he make inquiries at his May Area Committee Community Parks II meeting on what service level impacts have occurred in Community Parks II.

Mr. Mazzella commented that if the City goes with the lowest possible cost and least training the City will have lower quality streets and parks. This is what happens when you take the professionalism out of horticulture.

Mr. Mazzella stated that when Ellen Oppenheim was Park and Recreation Director she presented to the Board that the San Diego Park and Recreation Department was recognized as the single most effective Park and Recreation Department in the State of California. The efficiency was driven by the fact that Park and Recreation was already “cut to the bone.” Parks and art are not always about efficiency. It is a “quality of life” issue that needs to be preserved and will not be notice until it is gone.

Ms. Barnes reminded all attendees of Park and Recreation budget review on Wednesday, May 2, 2007, from 9:00 to 11:00A.M., at City Administration Building, 202 C Street, Council Chambers, San Diego, California 92101.

**No Action on the item was taken.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting:

**Thursday, May 17, 2007, 2:00 P.M.**

City Administration Building  
Committee Room, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
202 “C” Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico  
Park and Recreation Director